



Headteacher
Mr. M. Hazzard

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Governor Newsletter

April 2021

The Governors - who we are and what we do

The School Governors are a voluntary group who work together for the benefit of our school. The Governing Body is made up of parents, staff members, and representatives of the community and the local authority. We meet as a full governing body at least once a term, however some of our sub-committees meet more frequently.

The main purpose of the Governing Body is to support and challenge the running of the school, for the benefit of the children and welfare of the staff. Our responsibilities as governors include financial governance, staffing, premises, curriculum, and other key issues to ensure the successful running of the school. Our detailed objectives are listed on the school's website for those who want to find out more.

Our annual Governors Newsletter is attached overleaf which gives you an overview of our main focus areas over the past year.

In order for us to fulfil our role it is critical we understand the views of parents, and are able to ensure any concerns that you may have are being addressed. It is important to note however, any immediate concerns should always be raised in the first instance with the School management team.

So... please take time to familiarise yourself with who we are, and how you can help us to ensure the school continues to run smoothly and successfully. We hope that you find our newsletter useful and informative.

The Governing Body



Welcome to our annual Governor Newsletter! The Governors at Wootton Bassett Infants' School have been very busy working on a number of key areas over the past academic year.

Our Governors

CHAIR:

Marcus Farr

VICE-CHAIRS

Nicola Goldberg
Gemma Clatworthy

PARENT GOVERNORS:

Michelle McDermitt
Nicola Goldberg
Gemma Clatworthy

AUTHORITY GOVERNOR:

Marcus Farr

CO-OPTED GOVERNORS:

Kate Bristow

ASSOCIATE GOVERNOR:

Alison Pass

STAFF GOVERNORS:

Mark Hazzard
Rebecca Tebbitt

If you have any questions on any of these topics or would like to raise any issues then please feel free to contact any of the governing body either directly or via the school office.

Areas of focus for the past 6 months:

Staff Recruitment- Following Mr Hazard's decision to retire at the end of this academic year, we have been very busy recruiting for our new Headteacher. Following a rigorous selection process, we are delighted to announce that Alison Pass - one of our current Assistant Heads - has been appointed and will take up the position of Headteacher from September 2021.

As a result of Alison's appointment, we also had a vacancy for an Assistant Head so Jenny Pearce has been appointed into this role from September. The fact that we were able to fill these roles within internal candidates is a great reflection on the strength and experience we have within our teaching staff at the school so congratulations to Alison and Jenny on their appointments! We will be working closely with both Alison and Jenny over the coming months to ensure they settle into their new roles quickly and effectively.

Governor Development - Since our last OFSTED visit, the Governors have been working to address the areas which were identified for improvement. One of our main focus areas is ensuring that we have monitoring processes in place to evidence the impact of our school development plan. In order to do this effectively we would really benefit from having some additional volunteers on our Governing Body so that we can share the work out evenly - further details below. We are working closely with Wiltshire Council to prepare for our next OFSTED inspection and all indications are that we are well on track to achieve a positive outcome when this takes place.

Remote Learning - As we all know, the past year has been incredibly challenging for everyone and one of the key challenges for the school was to quickly put in place all of the necessary remote learning systems and resources to enable home schooling after the Christmas holidays. All of the staff did a fantastic job in very difficult circumstances and the feedback we've had from parents has been really positive so we'd like to say a massive thank you to everyone who was involved in making this happen.

Website - We have continued to improve and update our website, so it contains much more relevant and useful information for parents. We will be migrating our website to a new platform in the next few weeks which will give us more flexibility on how information is displayed. Please let us know what you think.

Focus for coming 6 months:

Governor Recruitment - As we've mentioned above, we would really appreciate some additional volunteers to join our Governing Body to help us ensure we are carrying out all of our responsibilities to the school. If you are interested in joining - or you know anyone who may be interested (grandparents, friends etc.) - please contact the school office and we can send you through some further information on what's involved along with an application form.

Pupil safety and security - The safeguarding of the pupils remains a focus for governors at all times and we are constantly reviewing the safeguarding processes and procedures within the school.

Finance - We will be closely monitoring the school budget to ensure that the school maintains its strong financial position. We will also be monitoring additional funding such as Pupil Premium to ensure this is secured and is being allocated effectively.